

**Approved
REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2015**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on December 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Bello, Hemmann, Hurley, Latina, Martino, Rell, Spinella, Deputy Mayor Barry and Mayor Montinieri.

Also present: Mike Turner, Town Engineer; Charles Brown, Director of Health District; Judith Sartucci, Chairperson of Central CT Health District; Brook Berry, Director of the Library; Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

All stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag which was led by Councilor Latina.

Chairman Montinieri asked for a moment of Silence: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

HEARING

There are no public hearings tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio 16 Morrison Avenue spoke on the need of a stop sign for Morrison Avenue. Site lines, traffic patterns, students crossing to get to school.

Lee Sekas, 117 Wells Road spoke on his need for help, on two occasions recently. The Wethersfield Police Department responded and needed to be thanked and congratulated for providing their services. One was a driver turning right on red without paying attention to the WHITE crossing sign while he was going across the street. The driver received a warning. He would like for more people to be more tolerant of pedestrians.

Jim Clynych, 903 Ridge Road commented on the property he owns on Marsh Street and how the culvert serves the Town as well as his property. The previous administration trimmed the vegetation but the new director only does half of it. He asked if that could be resolved. Town Manager Bridges said they would meet to discuss it.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Martino stated the Wethersfield Seniors Advisory Committee was interested in making technology more friendly for seniors. The housing authority renovations are still in progress and the houses are looking better. The CenterPoint Church is holding a blood drive on December 28 between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hurley stated the Class L championships are going on now and Wethersfield was down 14 at this point. He asked for an update on the Weight Watches building plans for the next meeting.

Councilor Rell spoke on the special legislative session. Concerned with the Senate Bill 1 funding coming back into the town, it looks like when it was originally passed 100 million dollars would be coming into the municipalities and cuts may be 70M from that promised revenue. Forecasted budgets over the next couple of years have us back in the red. Would any of the towns be held harmless for any of this funding at all? Is it going to affect us?

Town Manager Bridges stated yes, that even what was adopted wasn't going to be sufficient to cover the loss, particularly the cap on the motor vehicle would have to be made up, a portion of which, based on our estimates, would be on the real estate side. So any changes in that funding formula will be going to further exacerbate the problem unless they take the cap off the motor vehicle and allow it to be a local option. There has been discussion about local option taxation. Will wait and see what happens.

Councilor Rell asked if our mill rates had dropped yet. He thought there was a 2 tier program proposal. He thought we were originally at 38.

Town Manager Bridges stated that the Town of Wethersfield was in the mid 38's right now and the budget that will be preparing next spring, starting in January, will cap the motor vehicle rate at 32 mills with the expectation that there would be a revenue sharing out of the ½% sales tax that was set aside for local units of government. That was the expectation. The mill rate is supposed to drop to somewhere in the 29s and that is where it is proposed to stay.

Councilor Hemmann commented that the then Town Assessor did an evaluation of approximately what the loss would be based on real figures versus the projected revenue back to the town that the state predicted and it was almost double. So if they said they were going to give you back 750,000 and the actual cost to the town would be 1.5 million in revenue, we would still be out on a good day, half of that revenue coming back and we would have to make that up. That is a significant difference and 50% is a lot of money.

Town Manager Bridges stated that we don't know if they will escalate the mill rates for starting point to the most current rate that the town has and then revenue share off of that or keep the rate they used to produce the estimate. We don't know those details yet.

Councilor Hemmann indicated that the point she wanted to make was that the estimate from the state perspective was not the same as of what our staff predicted for the same number of vehicles within the town.

Town Manager Bridges indicated that they recently updated that and it is still consistent with what they found a year ago.

Mayor Montineri responded that he had communication with Russ and he felt very confident that our municipal support at both ECS and the other programs would remain whole. And he would keep everyone updated. He commented that the Holidays on Main was well attended and a reminder about the Salute to Business at the Country Club and invites went out to the full Council and Board and would encourage folks to attend that. The two Coffees with the Mayor were well attended and they filled two good size boxes which he dropped off and the Open Hearth wished to pass on their thanks for the support from the community.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bridges reported that the Holidays on Main were a terrific success wanted to thank the Committee led by Chris Pace. This was her last year as Committee Chair and she has done a great job sheparding this event for the past couple of years. He thanked the Town of Wethersfield Police Department, Fire Department, Parks Department and all the other associated employees that participated in this event. There was an extensive line for Santa Claus and it's terrific that there is still that belief, it's wonderful at that age. Great event. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for bringing everybody together.

Mayor Montineri announced that this weekend and the next three weekends there would be the trolley service running from Wethersfield to Hartford and the Bushnell skating pond through the support of several of the restaurants, a couple of private businesses and DECD grant money will be able to run for Friday and Saturday night for the three weekends up through the holidays and there would be 3 buses for New Year's Eve. The stops will be at Carbones, Jay's Restaurant, the Historic District in front of Lucky Lou's and then the Bushnell Skating Pond on a rotating basis, non-stop. There will be a lot of publicity about it. A well-attended and well used service and thanks to the City of Hartford for their support for the skating pond.

TOWN CLERK COMMUNICATIONS

Town Clerk Sassano indicated that the Charter that was voted on at the election has been sent to the Secretary of State's office. Wethersfield originally was an alternate for an audit on the election, which happens every year after every election. There is an audit done on the equipment, and this year we were an alternate, but we ended up being called into service. The Registrars are doing it tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers. It is open to the public. We just received notification of the Historic Documents Preservations Program for next year. Wethersfield will be eligible for \$5,000. This is a portion of the money we collect for the State Public Records Administration on every land document recorded for out vault.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Hemmann moved to **“ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DIANE FITZPATRICK, 40 WHIPPOORWAY EFFECTIVE 12-7-15”**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

Vote: All councilors present, including the chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Hurley moved to **“ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES CAREY TO THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE, 358 NOTT STREET EFFECTIVE 12-7-15”**, seconded by Councilor Latina.

Vote: All councilors present, including the chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

We completed the appointments for Councilors to the Committees and Liaisons positions. They are being shared with the Council and copies are provided to the department heads.

Councilor Rell and Deputy Mayor Barry indicated that they have not been receiving the Town Management Reports through their E-mails for the past two or three weeks. Maybe when the E-Mails changed there was a glitch. Councilor Rell asked about the Liaison List and indicated that he was the liaison to the Historic District Commission and he thought that there had been some consolidation within the Historical Society and the HDC, but wanted to make sure he was still the liaison.

Mayor Montineri responded that he just thought his name got left off on the Liaison List for that Commission and he would still retain his position.

Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services was invited to the podium to explain the two pieces of equipment that she was requesting to be authorized to be disposed of. They are exceptionally old pieces from 1990. The cost to repair them far exceeds their worth and for one of the machines, they can't even get parts for it. They were requesting to take them off their inventory records.

Councilor Bello moved **“TO DISPOSE OF BY SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AT THE SCRAP YARD”**, seconded by Councilor Spinella.

Vote: All councilors present, including the chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

BIDS

Deputy Mayor Barry moved to table **“THE AWARD OF THE RESURFACING OF A PORTION OF THE MILLWOODS PARK PARKING LOT TO DICIOCCIO BROTHERS FOR \$62,070”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

Vote: All councilors present, including the chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Spinella moved to **“ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE AND AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A DEVOS SYSTEM FROM VALLEY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS FOR \$43,590”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Keith Rafaniello, Director of Technology, Board of Education, was invited to explain the motion.

Mr. Rafaniello explained that one of the programs lacking at Wethersfield High School is a result of the facilities in television production program. Community TV14 is a wonderful program but the high school facility is lacking. On the other side of this renovation, we will have as good as a program as any high school in the state to expose our students to television production course work, experience training, capturing events and sporting events in the school. This piece will be intragradual to that but it will also tie into our curriculum; it will provide our digital signage to the 4 displays that are being put up around the building; and to scroll announcements and snippets of videos. Think of UTube, for example, and all the tutorial videos and documentaries you can watch. This server will actually be our own UTube, but safe and with just our content. There is nothing, no rule or law that says we can't have the whole school district benefit from this. Certainly the High School will be the ones who use it the most, but there will be enough storage on this server where we can capture all our community events. Once stored, we can access this video with any device, smartphone, tablet, computer anywhere in the world through an internet connection. We can password protect the videos that we want protected. Another benefit is our students can take a portable spirit device and stream video live from events.

Councilor Hemmann stated there is the capability or the existence of a production area present at the Middle School. Will there be work to begin the curriculum starting at the Middle School level, moving to the High School now? Will that kind of technology and ability, add that type of skillset?

Mr. Rafaniello responded absolutely, yes. The Middle School is actually a little bit ahead of the High School because the iPads were piloted there first. The students use the iPads to capture video, creating some their own educational documentaries. That program is starting to blossom. We can use this device for them as well to store their videos and this is something they can benefit from.

Councilor Latina asked if there was talk within the Building Committee about doing or using the Devos to do some sort of digital signage out on Wolcott Hill. So any event, whether it is a play or a big game is displayed on the sign outside that designates the school. Would that be something this would tie into?

Mr. Rafaniello stated yes it could. There are schools that have it at the entrances; a nice informative tool for parents to get some information even when they are just coming in to pick up their children. This tie is because it is internet based we can access it from all our schools. It also has some features that we could work with the Police Department as well as tying in our security cameras. The web based aspect of this is nice.

Councilor Rell thought that \$43,600 was a steep price for a ~~UTube~~ You Tube subscription. Did this include physical devices, video recording, video cameras, and digital video cameras or would we be using existing devices that the High School currently has?

Mr. Rafaniello informed him that the main cost is the server itself. That server would live in the head end closet at the High School with other servers. It is a heavy duty server because video takes up quite a bit of space. We will be able to catalog every graduation and all the sporting events from now to whenever. Then the other device we get is the "Spirit" which is a portable device to go anywhere in town and stream live video. We will be using devices which we have not purchased yet. We have spent 42% of the technology allocated for this new high school project and the project is more than 75% complete. You will see under TV, studio equipment, cameras, mics and lighting that there is a \$50,000 allowance and on each of these items we came in under budget except for the auditorium projector which came in over budget by \$7,700. Look at all the savings on what we have expended to date. The hardware that is involved with this purchase that we are looking for approval of the \$43,590 is broken down as follows: the server is \$30,000 and there are 10 displays with digital streamers @ \$850 each for a total of \$8,500; and the "Spirit" device is \$4,400 which our digital camera will tie into.

Councilor Hurley asked a question on the information just received. "That if it would take 2 hours to install, and then, the "traveling from Massachusetts" so there must not be any overnight stays, as it says "living expenses". Is there a maintenance agreement?

Mr. Rafaniello stated the vendor they are purchasing through on the state contract, Valley, are installing the displays. They have installed the classroom projectors, and they are going to be installing the auditorium projector between Christmas and New Year's. So they will also be there to support us with this device as well.

There is a \$4,000 a year total maintenance agreement but we pulled that out of the quote and put it in our operating budget because we will have to renew that each year.

Councilor Latina asked with regard to the network hardware server UPS switching and Wi-Fi, what is the backup if the electricity goes out. Is there another source in order to maintain that? So often we hear of Micro grid backups and were wondering if that was considered that or if the generator was separate from the micro grid?

Mr. Rafaniello indicated that the high school has a new more advanced generator and an UPS battery backup so even if someone were to hit a pole and we had a brown out for a second, we have a battery backup that kicks in to prevent the wear and tear on the equipment, which gives the generator time to kick in. Our high school is going to be one of the emergency shelters in town because of the generator. We will be backing up the content on our server. We have a barracuda backup system.

Deputy Mayor Barry indicated he saw the security piece as well and was wondering if Mr. Even, the Security Director had a chance to weigh in on it. He also found it interesting for the use for home bound students who can use this system.

Mr. Rafaniello stated that the new security system has the ability to tie in to the Police Department even without this system. This system may give us more flexibility with how we do that but Mr. Even has been heavily involved. The home bound use is interesting because you could require students to watch a video and can track by whether they logged in and actually watched it and anytime we have guest speakers we can capture that and if some of the grades weren't able to see it they could then watch it on demand. This system will capture events, upload it and encode it instantly so any meetings will be made available sooner and with less and involved.

ORDINANCES RESOLUTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

FOR INTRODUCTION – Resolution Dedicating Certain Land for Highway Purposes.
We have a resolution for Introduction which there will be at the meeting on the December 21st there will be a public hearing on that.

MINUTES

Councilor Spinella moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2015”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Spinella moved **“TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2015 WITH THE CHANGE OF WHITWORTH TO WOODWORTH ON PAGE 5”**, seconded by Councilor Bello.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Barry moved **“TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2015 IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION,”** at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Councilor Martino. No action taken.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m., Councilor Martino moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Rell. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by Vote of Council
December 21, 2015

Minutes amended to change UTube to You Tube